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CROP NEWS AND VIEWS

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ABOUT CORN

THREE out of every four farms in the United States raise corn. This crop exceeds the combined value of wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice and buckwheat. One bushel of seed will produce 250 to 1000 bushels of corn while most of the other grains produce less than one tenth this amount for each bushel of seed used.

The farmer is mostly concerned about more corn per acre rather than more acres of corn. Yields of sound corn can be increased by selecting the right hybrid, getting good seed, correct fertilization, planting on time at recommended rates, weed control and proper harvesting and storage.

Hybrid Selection

Hybrids that require a long season to reach maturity usually outyield those that ripen earlier. For highest production corn that uses the full season without too much risk of frost damage should be planted.

Hybrid varieties are usually made up of four inbred lines. These have been developed for high yields, disease resistance, corn borer and blight resistance, different soil types and other qualities. Not all are equal in every respect. If corn borer is a problem you will find some varieties have more resistance or higher tolerance than others. If blight is common use varieties that aren't seriously affected. If droughts are

frequent get those that are deep rooted and drought resistant. Often hybrids that have proven good yielders on dark soils will not do as well as some others on light soils. Some are also wider in their adaptation to different seasons and variations in soil conditions.

Seed Selection

As seed selection is no longer a matter of each farmer picking and saving his own seed then a reliable seed firm or producer must be depended on as the source of supply.

Round, small flat or regular flat kernels all produce the same kind of corn and equally well. The larger kernels contain a little more plant food and may start more rapidly while the smaller kernels will plant more acres per bushel.

Acres Planted Per Bushel 3 Ft. 4 In. Rows

	Kernels per Hill		
	3	3½	4
Small Flat	8.0	6.9	6.0
Regular Flat	7.2	6.2	5.4
Large Flat	6.3	5.4	4.7
Regular Round	6.2	5.3	4.6
Large Round	5.6	4.8	4.2

Seed should be high in germination and the plants vigorous growing for even, healthy stands. Treating gives protection against seed borne and seedling diseases found in the soil, such as

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To give some information regarding maturity and other qualities of Scott and Certified Hybrids the following brief statements are made.

Scotts 11

A new early hybrid developed to out-yield and be slightly earlier than M-15. It has tasseled and silked a few days ahead of M-15 and from tests and reports has been higher yielding. Ears are dark yellow, slightly larger than the M-15 but not quite as uniform. Maturity 90—95 days.

Ohio M-15

An early hybrid producing good yields of uniform sound yellow ears. High in root strength, blight and corn borer resistance. Ears are nice size, well filled, and husk easily. Medium tall. Maturity 90—95 days.

Scotts 22

The maturity of Ohio M-20 and M-34 but has outyielded hybrids in its maturity class. An excellent producer on different soil types. Strong roots, drought and blight resistant, medium tall, good sized ears that dry out quickly. Maturity 95—100 days.

Scotts 33

Maturity of the K hybrids. Disease resistant, sound dark yellow deepkerneled ears that husk clean and easily. Medium in size, not as tall as K-24. Suited to a range of soil conditions. Will crib early. Maturity 100—105 days.

Ohio K-24

A popular, widely used, earlier hybrid. Strong roots, good resistance to insects and disease. Medium to tall, has been a top yielder in its class in several different states. Nice size deepkerneled ears. Doesn't husk quite as clean as some hybrids. Maturity 100—105 days.

Ohio K-35

A strong rooted and strong stalked hybrid, rather short and leafy, ears medium short and thick with deep starchy kernels. This hybrid seems most popular on lighter colored soils and farmers who have found it to their liking continue to use K-35 year after year. Maturity 100—105 days.

Scotts 66

A high producing medium maturing hybrid, one or two days earlier than Iowa 939. Good quality fodder, stalk rot resistant, good roots. Ears husk easily and are not subject to dropping off. A vigorous growing good crib corn that does well over a wide range of conditions. Maturity 108—110 days.

Iowa 939

The most popular medium maturing hybrid in the corn belt. Very blight resistant, medium tall with medium size ears that dry out well. Widely used on many different soil types. A drought resistant, consistently good yielder. Maturity 110 days.

Ohio W-17

A medium maturing leafy hybrid. Large thick smooth type ears, strong roots, produces best on productive soils. Not as blight resistant as Iowa 939 or Scotts 66. A good crib corn but also can be used for and produces a high tonnage of ensilage. Maturity 110—112 days.

Ohio W-36

A strong stalked, blight resistant hybrid. Medium tall, leafy, ears medium size, deep starchy kernels. A high producer in most areas. Does not dry out quite as readily as Scotts 66 or Iowa 939. Can be used for silage or crib corn. Maturity 110—112 days.

Scotts 60 W

A strong rooted medium maturing white hybrid. Medium sized sound ears that dry out well for cribbing. Stalk is medium to tall and rot resistant. A good producer in its maturity class. Can be used for crib corn or ensilage. Maturity 110—114 days.

Indiana 610

A tall, stiff stalked hybrid dark green in color. Average resistance to blight and corn borer. Large ears, deep kernels. Produces best on dark or productive soils. Used year after year where it is adapted. Slightly later than the medium hybrids. Maturity 112—114 days.

Scotts 75

Slightly earlier and not quite as tall as the C hybrids Iowa 4059 and C-38. Blight resistant, sturdy stalks, large dark yellow ears. Developed for handy size. High yields, good husking and cribbing qualities. Maturity 112—114 days. (Limited seed supply.)

Iowa 4059

A strong rooted, medium late hybrid. A good yielder, easy to husk. Medium type ear. Does well on different soils. Ears dry out rapidly at harvest time so that it cribs early. Good resistance to blight. Often used where the field is fall seeded to wheat. Maturity 115 days.

Scotts 77

Maturity of Iowa 4059 and C-38 but cribs earlier than C-38. Large deepkerneled ears that husk clean. Blight and corn borer resistant and has been a good yielder. Taller than Scotts 75. Maturity 115 days.

Ohio C-38

An excellent high yielding medium late hybrid. Good stalks, leafy, resistant

to blight, smut and stalk rot. Large thick ears, deep starchy kernels a little slow in drying out. Can be used for crib corn or ensilage. Maturity 115—117 days.

Scotts 99

Maturity of US-13. Bred for more corn borer resistance and higher yield. Deep dark green color strong stalks and roots. Ears are large and deepkerneled with a tendency for two good ears per stalk. Excellent as an ensilage or crib corn. Vigorous growing. Maturity 118—120 days.

US-13

The standby in late maturing hybrids. Consistently high yielding, resistant to stalk rot and blight. Ears large and deepkerneled. Heavy, deep green fodder. Widely adapted and used for both ensilage and crib corn. Maturity 120 days.

Kentucky 203

A big, rugged, tall growing white hybrid for river bottom land or where seasons are long. Ears large, thick and long with deep kernels. Stalks are dark green and leafy and produce a large tonnage if used for ensilage. Needs a long season to mature for crib corn. Maturity 125—130 days.

Silage Blends

These are uniformly graded medium small flat kernels of several hybrids which after grading have been blended together. The early blend is for short season use, the late for full season plantings. Hybrids in each blend vary a few days in maturity so that top quality ensilage can be made over a greater period of time than with a single hybrid. Production is higher and variation gives greater feeding value.

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ear and plant rots. It is even more essential if the ground is cold and wet at planting time as germination and starting is slower and diseases have more chance to harm the small plants.

Illinois Tests on Seed

Treatments—1939

	Not Treated, Acre Yield	Treated, Acre Yield
Sound Seed Coats.....	90.7	91.4
Injured Seed Coats.....	72.0	84.9
Disease Infected	46.3	64.0

Fertilization

Plowing under barnyard manure, green manure or sod crops adds fertility and improves the mechanical condition of the soil. This increases its capacity to hold water and air, both essential to rapid growth and top yields.

Commercial fertilizer at the rate of 600 to 1000 pounds of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 per acre is being plowed under on many farms at a profitable return. This is applied by a fertilizer attachment on the plow or by a grain drill before plowing. Up to 300 to 400 pounds of 3-12-12 or 3-18-9 has been safely used at planting time. A combination of both plow under and row placement benefits the corn crop and also increases yields of succeeding crops.

As corn is a heavy feeder on nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, lime and minor elements, these must be supplied and kept in proper balance. Frequently a lack of one element as lime, nitrogen or potash will limit production even though there is an abundance of other elements available. This shows up as firing of leaves, light or discolored leaves and dead tips or sections.

Remembering that a neutral soil has a pH of about 6.8 the following report by the Ohio Station indicates the necessity of lime for top yields.

Soil pH Reaction	Yield Without Fertilizer Percent	Yield With Fertilizer Percent
4.7.....	40	34
5.0.....	69	73
5.7.....	80	83
6.8.....	100	100
7.5.....	97	85

Time of Planting

Ohio reports maximum yields for corn planted by May 15th. About a ten percent decrease occurs with late May planting and further loss with June planting. Should unfavorable weather conditions cause delay, earlier hybrids may be used that will reach maturity before killing frosts.

Thickness of Planting

One stalk per hill for each twenty bushels of corn per acre is a good rule to follow. For sixty bushel corn land there should be an average of three stalks per hill or for drilled corn, stalks are about fourteen inches apart.

While large ears are attractive, a one-half pound average ear weight will give maximum yields. If ears are larger total yield has been sacrificed and there aren't enough stalks per acre for top production.

Weed Control

Experiments show that soils high in organic matter may require cultivation only for weed control. Tests of the newer types of weed controls indicate cultivation can be reduced or possibly eliminated on many fields without reduction in yields.

Harvesting

Fields of standing or shock corn still unharvested in midwinter or early spring results in loss of quality and quantity of corn. With most of the cost of producing a corn crop already incurred corn should be harvested early enough to prevent these losses.

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